

HOUSE RESOLUTION 160

By McCord

A RESOLUTION to create a special House committee to study the creation of a Tennessee Outdoor Recreation Authority.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee State Parks division presently administers various outdoor recreation facilities, services, and programs that are not truly compatible with the division's mission "to preserve and protect, in perpetuity, unique examples of natural, cultural, and scenic areas"; and

WHEREAS, likewise, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is involved in outdoor recreation functions that are far removed from wildlife management; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee could possibly be better served by the establishment of a state entity to administer such ancillary functions, thus allowing Tennessee State Parks and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Authority to disengage from such responsibilities and better utilize their resources to fulfilling their respective missions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that there is hereby created a special House committee to study the feasibility of creating a Tennessee Outdoor Recreation Authority to administer the various state outdoor recreation facilities, services, programs, and functions that are not compatible with the respective missions of Tennessee State Parks and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in conducting its study, the special committee shall give consideration and make recommendations relative to the powers, including the establishment of user fees; duties; and membership of a Tennessee Outdoor Recreation Authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of five (5) members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Fifth General Assembly no later than February 1, 2008, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.